



Bridging Cultures. Building Community.



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Vision and Mission

- **FIRN's Vision**

A community that welcomes foreign-born neighbors, values their cultures, supports their needs, and celebrates their achievements.

- **FIRN's Mission**

FIRN empowers foreign-born individuals by providing programs and direct services that assist them in achieving their goals and accessing community resources and opportunities.



The first thing clients see when they come to FIRN is a warm welcome in their own language!

Demographics

In Howard County, more than 70,000 residents claim another country as home, and about 60,000 speak a language other than English when they're with family.

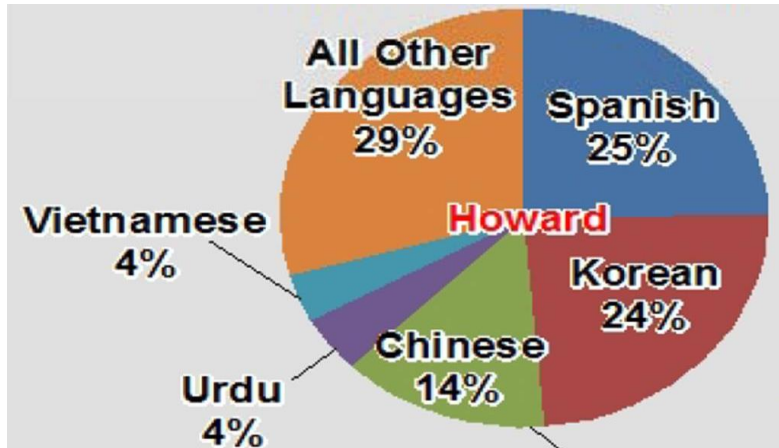
Firm also refers clients to other services

or agencies in order to get needs fulfilled (20%).



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In Howard County, about 60,000 residents speak a language other than English when they're with family.



*Data comes from 2010 census and does not account for recent increase in Chin speaking Burmese refugees.

	Ages 5 +	%
English	205,948	78.61%
All languages other than English c	56,039	21.39%
Spanish	12,129	4.63%
Korean	9,652	3.68%
Chinese	6,063	2.31%
Other Asian languages	3,550	1.36%
Hindi	2,471	0.94%
African languages	2,294	0.88%
Urdu	2,241	0.86%
French	2,233	0.85%
Other Indic languages	1,993	0.76%
Gujarathi	1,558	0.59%
Vietnamese	1,257	0.48%
Persian	1,166	0.45%
Arabic	1,118	0.43%
German	1,099	0.42%
Tagalog	985	0.38%
Russian	975	0.37%
Italian	700	0.27%
Portuguese	601	0.23%
French Creole	589	0.22%
Polish	436	0.17%
Japanese	391	0.15%
Other West Germanic languages	362	0.14%
Other Indo-European languages	349	0.13%
Thai	287	0.11%
Other Slavic languages	284	0.11%
Greek	272	0.10%
Scandinavian languages	252	0.10%
Hebrew	160	0.06%
Hungarian	148	0.06%
Total:	261,987	



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What we do

- **Immigration Counseling** low-cost immigration services to the foreign born community in Howard County. All inclusive from reviewing documents to US Citizenship.
- **Information & Referral** – We help clients with a wide array of social service issues including access to health care, housing, financial assistance, food, clothing, and more, including victims of domestic violence. I&R services help foreign born families and individuals navigate life in America.
- **Language Connections & Interpreting Services** – Language Connections is the only nonprofit interpreter service in Maryland. Language Connections offers professionally trained interpreters who speak approximately 30 languages, including Chin.
- **Healthcare Enrollment** – FIRN has certified healthcare navigators to help clients find affordable care that is right for them.



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What we do (continued)

- **ESL Referrals for Adults** – FIRN connects with community organizations, such as churches and community centers, that provide free ESL classes. The information is put into a calendar form and distributed all over Howard County.
- **Career Development** – Skilled volunteers serve our clients by helping them learn to navigate the American job market through resume writing, online job searches, applying for jobs, and preparing for interviews.
- **Volunteers** – Our volunteers serve in the office and in the community. Volunteers speak many languages including French, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Swahili, Urdu, and Spanish.



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Front Office / Referral Support
Marie Perez
Angelica Cortes



Victoria Villator, Immigration Attorney
and FIRM's reception team